American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Monona Cheney Papers, 1918-1932

Series I

Outgoing Correspondence

Folder Description:

Outgoing Correspondence,
May 1930- August 1932

Box Number:

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Yenching - Peking,
May 5th, 1930.

Dear Family,

Mother says I needn't send four copies any more, since Father is at home; but since Russell has gone back, perhaps I'd better continue it - since I suppose mother does write to him once in a while! "Half the family" ought to have a quarter of the letter, don't you think?

It's great fun to think that this letter you probably can't answer before I leave for Japan; hope to have the answer there though. And I need to emphasize again, especially in view of the fact that most of my family have forgotten how to write letters, that I shall need instructions at San Francisco as to where you all are, and what you want me to do. Mother's letter last week says Margie and the kiddies will be with Russell in Montana, and I'd better come home via them. In that case I shall need to know one or two things: (1) Where in Montana are they? (2) Will they have room for me if I come? (not that I need a very big space; I'd be quite willing to sleep on the floor for the sake of seeing "you-all"; but I don't want to be a nuisance); and (3) how do I get there? All this I ought to know as soon as the boat arrives, for if I'm going the northern way, the trip to Los Angeles will be a side-trip; but if not, I can buy a through ticket via L.A. from San Francisco. Also, if I'm going that way, with the extra expense, and if I'm stopping there so that I can't get home anyway before Father leaves for camp, I might decide to go on by boat to Los Angeles, which will save me some money, but cost me three days more of time. So it's quite important that I know what you want me to do. If I could know at Honolulu, it would be much better; then I could have my plans all made before I land; in that case you'd need to send the word in plenty of time to reach there by the 17th of July (better allow three weeks). It gives me a queer feeling to think of you all so scattered, and I do want to see you all as soon as possible; so I hope you'll at least send me a steamer letter to tell me how I can do it. I certainly am glad that Russell and his family can have the summer together, and I want to get in on it if I can! Mother didn't say where Father's camp is to be; is it near enough so I can go and see him, or half-way across the state? And by the way, mother, when I tell you when I'm arriving, don't get out the brass band; I'd rather see you first, and the band afterward! Not many people are likely to go to Cameron after me, but they might find it easier to meet the ten o'clock! But probably none but my relatives and two or three best friends are likely to; so this warning probably isn't needed - but you know how I hate a fuss!

Suppose you all know by this time that according to reports we are about to be under a new government, whose capital is to be Peking (with the old name), and whose officials are in the process of being set up, chief among them Feng Yu Hsiang and Yen Hsi Shan. Looks like war would really begin in good earnest in a few days; though we hope not. A good many people here are in favor of the new government, for Chiang has not been popular here; and the easiest

way to improve things is the age-long one of revolt. So it looks as if we were scheduled for a divided country again, as nearly as one can see. Makes one think of some church unity projects - desirable if the unity can be under my particular banner. At any rate things are quiet at present; there have been one or two communistic street meetings; but the students holding them were promptly clapped into prisons and some are still waiting trial. I don't favor that method of dealing with Communists myself, either here or in America; but it seems to be temporarily effective, however much of a boomerang it may prove later. Of course there will be great rejoicing on the part of the north if Peking can really be made a capital again; we've never recovered either economically or sentimentally from that loss.

It is time for the mail to go out; so I must get this closed up, though it hasn't much news in it. It will at least tell you I'm still alive, and starting home in less than eight weeks; the rest you can wait for until I get there!

Love and love,

Mamma

Yenching, Peking,
May 19th, 1930.

Dearest family,

"Only two whole months left, and all the rest are halves"! I am finding it rather difficult to find things to write about, since my days mostly go into regular work and plans for departure, neither of which makes particularly good news items; but I don't want you to think I've been run off with by bandits or fallen into the sea, so I'll at least let you know I'm on the job.

I had an especially nice week-end Saturday and yesterday, with the Whitakers at T'ungchou (about twelve miles the other side of Peking). You probably remember they are friends of a good many years - but I've seen very little of them for a long time. This year they have been in T'ungchow, out from their regular station, while Mr. Whitaker recovers from tuberculosis. It has been a long pull - eight months flat on his back in bed, and now long months of convalescence. They have finally decided to go back to California, where he can go to work sooner than he would be able to here; so they are leaving just two weeks before I do, and by the same route! Ever since Christmas they have asked me to come out, but first I had my hospital siege, and then they had the ~~monkey~~ mumps, which, with their six youngsters, took about two months to finish up. So this was the first week-end suitable to us both. I had a lovely time. They are a beautiful family - the children range in age from sixteen down to a most adorable four-year-old- and their home life is the kind that makes one better just to be a part of it. I am terribly sorry that we couldn't have planned to go home together, but they are leaving on a boat which I could hardly make after Commencement, and they didn't themselves know they were leaving until after my sailings were all settled. They will be not far out from Los Angeles, so I may see them there, but am not sure, as there are so many folks there to see.

By the way, mother, you asked about having Mrs. Borum meet me. I don't think that will be necessary at all. I don't know which road I shall take from San Francisco down, but probably can go direct to Pasadena; and I think Mrs. Jewell would be a little disappointed if I tried to make other plans after I've promised her so long that I would come straight to her. She is counting a good deal on it, and I don't think it will mean quite so much to anybody else - though of course there are many others whom I want to see for shorter periods. Just how I'm going to do it I'm not sure, for there are three different groups of friends there, who do not know each other at all: the Barron group, the North China and Missionary group (including Olive Pye), and quite a group of college friends, including the Tiegses. Just how I'm going to see them all in a week, and ye;

give Mrs. Jewell all the time I want to, I can't see at present; but probably shall later. If I could see Mrs. Borum and Pete and the other Barron folks all together for an afternoon, it would be nice, but of course I've no idea how far apart they are. I'm not sending word to many people as to when I'm arriving; am trusting to telephone connections after I arrive.

Having had Myra's letter asking where we are to make connections, and Mother's suggesting that I come via Montana if Margie and the kiddies are there, I now have a letter from Maggie May saying that if I come via Colorado, she may come part-way with me! If you think deciding a little matter like my route from California to northern Wisconsin is an easy one, just figure out this problem for me! However, since I can hardly decide it this far away, I'm not trying to; shall wait till I hear from you all at Honolulu or San Francisco, and then decide in a hurry, and send my telegrams flying all over the country!

Vena Radley, the girl from Peking who was going on the same boat with me, has just had word of her brother's death and her father's serious illness; so is deciding to take an earlier boat if she can get it. Poor kid; that kind of news is hard enough any time, but it seems all the harder just a month or two before furlough. ~~Ruk~~ I shall still have the company of Dr. Ch'en, who is to room with me all the way across, and we shall have a lovely quiet trip; she is a dear, and I'm glad for the chance to know her better. Did I tell you she is our Tientsin doctor, going to America for a year of study on the McDowell Scholarship?

Four weeks more of regular work - and there is plenty of it. I still have Aunt Orpha's shopping to do; hope to get that done next week - and packing can begin before long.

We can't tell much here about how the war in the South is progressing. The only English paper upon which we have depended for anything like accurate news has recently been purchased by the northern group, and is being run by a Britisher who is using it as hard as possible for northern propagenda; so what the real truth is, we have little idea. You probably know more about it than we do. Everything is very quiet here; Chang Hsueh Liang at Mukden seems to have decided to run his own show and let other peoplerun theirs, which is not exactly to the liking, I judge, of either Chiang or Yen and Feng, but very much to his own advantage. We may have a triple China again, who knows? But I hope not.

Must close this and get to work. Heaps of love to you every one.

Mamma.

Yenching, Peking,
June 9th, 1930.

Dearest family,

By the time this gets to you, I shall be either in Japan or on the Cleveland sailing to you-ward. Am I thrilled? So much so that I can't remember when I wrote you, but have a guess I'd better write again, to tell you I'm still on my way and haven't decided to stay in China another year!

Days are getting pretty full. Last Saturday we had the Senior Banquet for "my" class, then later in the evening the Department of Music had a farewell party for Ruth Stahl and me (though I think most people wondered how I ever got into it!) This week I have three invitations out to meals, and tomorrow evening is the all-faculty farewell for the twenty-three of us who are leaving this year! The program is to be a parody on the Gondoliers which is a take-off on all of us, so it promises to be richly entertaining. I was supposed to go in to Peking to lead the Methodist prayer-meeting that evening, but got that postponed to next week; so that will be my swan-song! My main job this week is to plan my exams, get papers and reports corrected, and work ready to leave. Fortunately for me, my exams all come on Monday and Tuesday of next week, so as soon as those papers are corrected (which will be soon, you may guess) I shall have the rest of the week for my packing. Poor Ruth, leaving via Siberia with a large party this week Friday, is having to pack right in the midst of everything else, which is much worse than my arrangement.

A letter came from Myra this week, saying that if I can stay in Los Angeles, she will come there early enough so that we can have Sunday, the ~~fourth~~ third of August, with Mrs. Jewell together. Since she has to have the word in time to plan her trip, and since I can't find out about the exact plans of all of you, I am writing her that I'll wait until Monday morning, the ~~fifth~~ fourth. It will be a matter of only two or three days difference, and it probably will be the last opportunity the three of us will ever have to be together. I think I shall write Aunt Orpha, asking if I may have my physical exam there, in which case I'll save another day or two somewhere along the line. I'M afraid this means that I'll not get home in time to see Father before he goes to camp, but the plans of the rest of you are so uncertain that I can't tell about that anyway - and if you're not too far across the state, daddy, I'll coax some of my friends to drive me to camp! And I'm certainly looking forward to that reunion the first of September!

Of course, mother, of you and Father can't go to Madison for the whole year, I shall be very happy for the four months; but would the year be so very much more expensive, if you could rent the house and count in what I shall have to spend for board and room anyway? I do so want you all the year if I can have you.

I'm expecting to leave Yenching either the 25th or 26th, and in any case shall go to Tientsin the 26th. That will give

me a day or two there before my boat sails for Kobe. I have a letter from Caroline Peckham, asking me to stop in Fukuoka before going to Kobe, and I should love to, but with baggage to look after, and Dr. Ch'en with me, I don't think I shall plan to do it, as it means leaving the boat at Moji, and taking the rest of the trip by train. In any case Caroline will come up to Moji and meet us, and as the boat is there for several hours, we shall have quite a visit. We have more than three days in Kobe, and I'm wanting Dr. Ch'en to see quite a little in that time, so that Japan will mean something finer to her than it stands for in the minds of most of our Chinese.

Did I tell you I am hoping to see William Hung (the head of our history department here, who has had the last two years at Harvard) in Honolulu? It will give me opportunity to talk over my work with him, and find out just what he wants me to do. The Korean girl doctor who was in my Sunday School class those first two years in Peking, is also living in Honolulu, so the day there will be all too short for all I want to crowd into it.

But if I don't get to work, I'll never get there - so this is all for this time. Heaps of love to you all, and "no end" of thrills at the thought that another two months will see me at home.

Love and love; you'll probably have only one more letter from me here, and if I shouldn't get that written, don't worry.

Mamma.

Yenching, Peiping,
July 2, 1932.

Dearest family of mine,

I've written two letters to Mother and Father since the last carbon letter; so now I'll do another of those, since it is about time I sent "personals" to Russell and Lois. To think it is nearly the Fourth of July! The Peking family phoned out the other day to ask if I would come in and spend tomorrow and Monday with them; and when I said I feared I ought not, the lady at the phone said, "Are you going to work on the Fourth?" It reminded me of the days when we youngsters used to protest Mother's washing on that day, and her reply that she could be patriotic at her washing! So I shall be celebrating my country's independence by keeping office hours in an institution the Father of his Country never heard about! His loss!

I've been spending the last few minutes marking M C all over my handkerchiefs and towels, for my sewing-woman to outline. Since the rest of the family is gone, I have her all to myself, and as she is a speedy worker, she keeps me humping to give her enough to do. A lady's maid is quite a luxury; and when she is obviously as glad to see one as this particular lady is, and so tickled at the chance to do something, I am well taken care of. Yesterday, when she ran out of work and I wasn't around to find more, she got out all my stockings and mended every hole she could find, then arranged two drawers in such apple-pie order as my bureau seldom sees! (Did I hear Lois make a remark?) But the poor lady is to have a baby in September, and then what are we to do? If she comes to work for us by the day, the baby can't be fed when it needs it, and is left at the mercy of an old grandmother who will feed it anything at hand; if she doesn't come, her husband's wages are not enough for the family to live on - especially as he spends a good deal on himself. I am trying to solve the problem, but haven't succeeded yet. Giving her money outright wouldn't be wise, so there we are! She has already lost three or four children because she wasn't at home to look after them, and I don't want another repetition of that.

I am alone in my glory in the Dean's Residence, my guests having all departed. Yesterday noon Ellen Studley stopped, and stayed the afternoon on her way out to the Student Conference at the Sleeping Buddha Temple. Tomorrow after church I am going out for the rest of the day. If the Galts are going, they will take me in their car; if not, I'll take a ricksha. I've been sorry not to be at the Conference for the whole time, but just now there are almost no Women's College faculty on the ground; so I've been needed here. Tsengti is still here, but has been sick, and leaves in a few days for Peitaiho. One or two others will be in and out through the month; but most are gone for vacation. I have not had a very busy week. The students have been settling into the dormitories that will be kept open through the summer; we have fifty-eight of our 234 left, some of whom are here to study and work on theses, others here because home is too far away. I've had to turn down a few folks who think this is a lovely summer-hotel - which it would be! One boy wanted his two sisters from the city to stay here, since they couldn't go home to Manchuria; a girl student wanted her two little

sisters to stay with her; another wanted her aunt, who is all she has. But sympathetic as I am with them, we have to be firm - else we should be mobbed every summer; for this is one of the quietest, loveliest places anywhere around Peking, and has all modern conveniences into the bargain!

It looks now as if I should have to take my two weeks' "vacation" (sounds like a joke when I've only just come back!) the last two weeks of this month. I had hoped it might be later, when I had worked a little longer; but Margaret Speer, who is the other one responsible for the summer, has gone to P.U.M.C.with a bad case of dysentery, and will probably have to take all of August away; so I shall be needed here then, whereas while she is in the hospital, Augusta Wagner can be here and look after things if I go away. So I'll be running up to Peitaiho for those two weeks, then be back at work through August.

Yesterday and today have begun to be hot! But I am so thankful for a cool June; the coolest I have ever known here, I think. I am by this time acclimated (partly by a sick spell two weeks ago!) , so don't mind if it gets hot now. Anyway, it is no worse than Chicago was a year ago this week!

I hoped for a letter from Father or Lois in this week's mail; but it didn't come. It seems a long time between letters now that mother is sick; but Mrs. Tomlinson's letter, telling of her Barron "call",was a help. Mail is coming pretty regularly once a week, which helps. I've had not a word from or about Russell's folks since I left Seattle; better "get a wiggle on", brother mine! I sent Mother last week the pictures we took at Evanston the day I came away; will have some more finished for the rest of you soon.

Papers are full of Manchurian Customs dispute just now; and the League of Nations Inquiry Commission has just left Peiping for Japan. The head of our own Political Science Department, probably the best authority in China on Manchuria, has been sent for by W.W.Yen, to come to Geneva immediately for the fall session of the League; so it seems fairly close. Japan seems determined not to give up on Manchuria, and China equally so; so prospects for a settlement don't look very immediate. On the Customs, however, at least on the surface, Japan seems somewhat more conciliatory, and it is better so; for the Customs receipts concern loans of several kinds to various countries, who don't want their securities tampered with.

Time to stop, if I don't want to pay double postage! Heaps of love to you all.

Will send Russell's and Lois' letters direct.

Yenching, Peiping,
August 2, 1932.

Dearest family of mine,

Mother's letter which came this noon made record time; mailed on July 13th, it gets to me out here in the "suburbs" on August 2nd - which means nineteen days between Barron and Peiping! Fastest rate yet; who says I'm not nearer home than I used to be?

I sent two letters home from Peitaiho, the latter one very short on news but long on Father's stamps, inasmuch as it contained some linen for Mother. Father ought tt have a good time with that envelope. The next mail closes in Peking day after tomorrow; so you get an immediate answer to the letter whch arrived today - and Russell and Lois get a letter they don't have coming!

It surely is good to have letters in Mother's own handwriting. But Mother dear, don't write when you don't feel up to it; I want you to save your strength to get well on, even if it means I don't hear from you so often. It is a big relief to know you are getting better, even though it is a slow process.

Next morning.

Yesterday was my social whirl, and this is as far as the letter progressed. It is now 8:15, and I'm due at the office at nine, so will get this finished before I begin anything else. Yesterday I had a noon luncheon engagement at the home of our Chinese psychologist (the stamp man, Father); then had tea at Dick Ritter's with a guest who is interested especially in world peace movements; then was invited to the DeVargases for dinner. They were all very pleasant. I wished Father could have been at the Luh's; Dr. Luh evidently has a very fine collection of stamps - but alas for exchange he collects only Chinese stamps. He showed me the two sets now out of the Sun Yat Sen stamps, first and second London prints; says I can get them at the city post-office; so when I go in I'll get the lower denominations; he says the five dollar ones I'll be able to get in a few months for very little (used). He told me a most interesting story about one group of stamps he has, which he says cannot be duplicated. They are money order stamps, which of course ordinarily are cut in two and kept in the post-office, so are unobtainable. He said that on one occasion a rather ignorant postmaster in a village up near Peitaiho got excited over a lot of packages, and put these money order stamps on them by mistake. There were only twenty of them used, and Dr. Luh succeeded in getting eight of them, five of which he still has, the other three having been given to two friends in China and U.S. Dr. Luh says he can tell me where to get stamps ordinarliy obtainable at reasonable prices, so Father, send your orders along!

The dinner at DeVargases was very pleasant also, as it always is to be with them. The S.H.Li's were there, first time I've eaten with them since the night we were all at the Frosts in Madison. And our Chinese librarian who last year visited the DeVargases in Switzerland, was there - the wrld seemed quite small.

I had a good trip back from Peitaiho last week. Left Friday morning in the rain (it rained most of the time I was gone, there as well as here; this has been a real rainy season), and went as far as Ch'angli. Stayed there for twenty-four hours, visiting with Ellen Studley, Irma Highbaugh, Minta Stahl who is vacating there, and others; then came on Saturday morning. The trip was not oppressively hot, and I spent most of the time reading a new history text-book I had gotten hold of. Arrived in Peking, and had ordered a taxi to meet me, inasmuch as I was too late for the evening bus, and would otherwise have had to take my baggage and myself to the Mission for overnight, and come out early Sunday morning. As it was, I reached here at eight in the evening; the cook had dinner all ready for me; and I was all unpacked before I went to bed. Marnie Speer was leaving the next afternoon for her vacation; so we had to confer in all the little details of things to be looked after this month.

I am now "monarch of all I survey" for the month. Am supposed to be in the office from nine to twelve every morning, but so far haven't been there. Spent all the first morning in a meeting of the Admissions Committee, deciding on students to be admitted; and all yesterday morning in the Faculty Executive Committee (the Committee that settles questions finally). You see I have to sit in on all the Committees - if they meet - that the Dean ordinarily sits on; which really is quite a joke, since I don't know anything about the business; but I'm having a chance to learn a lot. I'm needing to settle down to my courses for fall, and the work of the History Department, but these other things take a lot of time.

I certainly am puzzled over what happened to some of my letters from Yokohama. Mother's letter does not say whether you finally had any word from me in Japan or not, though it indicated that my first China letter had come. From Yokohama I sent letters home, to Lois and to Russell, and menu cards, etc., to Russell's kiddies. If they didn't reach you, don't think I didn't write. Blanche has written me too, and without mentioning that they heard from me; did Louise? One or two other letters haven't been mentioned; so I'm wondering if half of my sixty-five letters were lost! Feel the worst about yours at home, for you should have had word from me the middle of June.

I must close this and get to the office. Won't stop to add my own handwriting; it doesn't improve the looks, and I want this to get in today's mail.

Love and love,

Mamma.

Postage Stamps.

Martyr design: Stamps already on hand for sale.

8 cents, with portrait of late Mr. Chu Chih-hsin (朱執信)
10 " , " " " " " Sung Chiao-jen (宋教仁)
20 " , " " " " " Huang Hsing (黃 興)
30 " , " " " " " Liao Chung K'ai (廖仲愷)
40 " , " " " " " Huang Hsing (黃 興)

Stamps not yet received.

½c & 2½c, with portrait of late Mr. Teng K'eng (鄧 鏗)
3c, " " " " " Liao Chung K'ai (廖仲愷)
13c, " " " " " Chu Chih-hsin (朱執信)
17c, " " " " " Sung Chiao-jen (宋教仁)
1c & 50c, " " " " " Chen Yin-shih (陳英士)

½ 1 2½ 3 8 10 13, 17, 20, 30, 40, 50.

List of stamps for sale to collectors at the District Accountancy,

Post Office, Peiping, China.

I.- Postage Stamps: Old Issue.

Ordinary Stamps:

(1) ½c, 1c, 1½c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 10c, 13c, 15c, 16c, 20c, 30c, 50c, $1, $2, $5, $10 and $20 ..... $39.92 per set.

(2) 1c surcharged on 3c in red.

(3) 1c surcharged in black.

(4) Old die: 1½c. 8c, 13c, 16c, 30c, 50c and $2.

Overprinted Stamps for use in Sinkiang:

(1) Uncancelled: ½c, 1c, 1½c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 10c, 13c, 15c, 16c, 20c, 30c, 50c, $1, $2, $5, $10 and $20 ..... $39.92 per set.

(2) Uncancelled, old die: 10c, 16c, 20c, 30c, 50c, $1, $2, $5, $10 and $20.

(3) Uncancelled: 4c (grey).

(4) Cancelled: ½c, 1c, 1½c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 10c, 13c, 15c, 16c, 20c, 30c, 50c, $1, $2, $5, $10 and $20 ..... $39.92 per set.

Overprinted ~~for~~ Stamps for use in Yunnan:

Uncancelled: ½c, 1c, 1½c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 10c, 13c, 15c, 16c, 20c, 30c, 50c, $1, $2 and $5 .....$9.92 per set.

Overprinted Stamps for use in Ki-Hei (Kirin and Heilungkiang):

Uncancelled: ½c, 1c, 1½c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c, 8c, 10c, 13c, 15c, 16c, 20c, 30c, 50c, $1, $2 and $5 .....$9.92 per set.

II.- Postage Stamps: New Issue.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen Stamps (printed in London):

2c, 4c, 15c, 25c, $1, $2 and $5 .....$8.46 per set.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen Stamps (first London print):

1c, 2c, 4c, 20c, $1, $2 and $5 .....$8.27 per set.

Overprinted Dr. Sun Yat Sen Stamps (printed in London) for use in Sinkiang:

~~1c, 2c, 4c, 15c~~ 2c, 4c, 15c, 25c, $1, $2 and $5 .....$8.46 per set.

Overprinted Dr. Sun Yat Sen Stamps (printed in London) for use in Yunnan have not yet been received.

Overprinted Dr. Sun Yat Sen Stamps (first London print) for use in Sinkiang:

1c, 2c, 4c, 20c, $1, $2 and $5 .....$8.27 per set.

Overprinted Dr. Sun Yat Sen Stamps (first London print) for use in Yunnan:

1c, 2c, 4c, 20c, $1, $2 and $5 .....$8.27 per set.

Martyr Stamps (printed in Peiping):

8c, 10c, 20c, 30c, and 40c..

Martyr Stamps (printed in Peiping):

½c, 1c, 2½c, 3c, 13c, 17c, and 50c

The latter martyr stamps have not yet been received.

III.- Postage-Due Stamps: Old Issue.

(1) ½c, 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 10c, 20c and 30c .....$0.72½ per set.

(2) Old die, London print: ½c, 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 10c, 20c and 30c .....$0.72½ per set.

.- Postage-Due Stamps: New Issue.

Peiping print: ½c, 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 10c, 20c and 30c .....$0.72½ per set.

Air-Mail Stamps: 1929 Issue.

15c, 30c, 45c, 60c and 90c .....$2.40 per set.

Post Office,
Peiping, 16th August, 1932.

Yenching University,
Peiping, China.
August 3, 1932.

Dear friends at home,

I have been on China soil just two months today, and as I have not written most of you since that time, I am going to take this way of doing it before school opens next month. To most of you who sent me steamer letters, I wrote before reaching Yokohama; but I am beginning to have suspicions that some of those sixty-five letters were lost enroute; and there were some of you whose letters failed to be written. Wiil you accept this letter, even though printed, as really a personal one? I am not dictating it to a secretary, and if it reaches you unsealed and without a note added "by hand", you will know that it is only because that makes a difference of twenty cents on each letter, under present postal charges. The letter is still *personal*.

As almost all of you know, I sailed from Seattle on May 14th. The great package of steamer letters which was waiting for me in the steamship office when I reached Seattle gladdened my heart, and their contents helped much to give courage and strength and joy when they were needed. For glad as I was to come back to my China work and friends, it could not be easy to leave my family under any conditions, and with Mother having been taken seriously ill just the day before I left, the leaving was, I think, the hardest thing I have ever done. Had I known when I reached Seattle what I learned only after I reached here—that the illness was a "stroke" which would keep her in an invalid's chair for many months—I should in all probability have returned home instead of sailing; but she and Father, in their unselfish courage and thought for me and the work here, would not send the telegram which would have called me back, and I sailed without knowing how much they needed me. Of course the word which reached me here has put a good deal of heartache into these days; but since I followed what seemed to me to be His leading, in the light of all I knew at the time, He has kept me from regrets; and the certainty of His love around those I love, and of His guidance for days ahead, has held me steady, and helped me go on with joy through all the pain. I am praying that all of it may make me better fitted for His using. And I am deeply grateful to every one of you whose letters and love and prayer have helped through hard testings.

The voyage was very pleasant, especially the latter part of it between Japan and China. I had a week-end in Kobe where I trans-shipped, and then the four-day journey, across quiet water and with beautiful weather, to

Tientsin. There I had another week-end with my close friends in the Mission, and finally reached Peiping and Yenching on June 6th. That was just two weeks before Commencement; so I was a part of all the celebration, as well as of many of the dinners and parties for people leaving for furlough. And immediately after Commencement I stepped into the jobs which are mine for the summer or longer.

Of course my chief purpose in coming back in the spring was that I might be here to help through the summer. Several of our Women's College faculty were leaving, and others on furlough could not be back until fall; so it was leaving heavy responsibilities on only a few of those who had already had a hard year. We always have students staying through the summer, who are too far from their homes to return; and the administrative offices have to be busy all the vacation in preparation for the year's work; so someone has to be in the Women's College office. This has fallen to me, and I am being "Jack-of-all-trades". I ran away for the last two weeks of July, while there were others here who could do the work; and spent that time at Peitaiho, our sea-side resort, with three of my Tientsin friends, in the summer home of one of them. It was very restful and cool, and the fellowship brought much of inspiration. Now I am back for the rest of the summer, with a variety of duties; office hours from nine to twelve every morning, preparation of my history courses for fall, details in connection with the History Department, committee meetings on which the Women's College is represented, and so on. It sounds very dull put on paper, but I am finding it intensely interesting, and am very happy in it, although of course I should not want to stay permanently at a task of odds and ends.

College will open with Freshman Week the first of September; registration comes the 6th and 7th, and classes begin the eighth. From then on my tasks will be chiefly three: the chairmanship of the History Department, teaching of my classes, and work on the Executive Committee of the Christian Fellowship—our university church organization. It all promises to be very challenging and worth-while, even though some of it I should not have chosen had I been asked! I am to be living again in a suite in one of the student dormitories, with the Chinese "suite-mate" of whom I often talked while at home; and of course that means opportunity for closer touch with the students than I could have with some other living arrangements.

I should be happy if I could show every one of you around our lovely campus; it is a beauty-spot in itself, with many others in view, and we are

very proud of it. We do hope we can do work worthy of the splendid surroundings our friends have made possible for us. We of the Women's College are very happy this summer in having at last secured the Chinese Dean for whom we have been long looking, a fine Christian woman of considerable experience, returning just now from three years of graduate study in America ; we are greatly looking forward to her arrival and our work under her direction.

Our Methodist Annual Conference meets in Peiping the 24th of this month. We shall be glad to welcome Bishop Wang back after his trip to America for General Conference ; and we are very happy that that Conference saw fit to send Bishop Welch to the Shanghai area for this coming quadrennium ; on one else could so well take up the work Bishop Birney was forced to lay down. I hardly need tell you that we are eagerly looking forward also to the visit of Stanley Jones, who is spending this fall in China. He is to be here on our own campus for part of this month, at a Y.M.C.A. conference ; and then is to be back in Peiping again for ten days in September. Those of you who have shared the inspiration of his books or of his addresses will know how great are our expectations of new visions of the Master through His ambassador.

There are no doubt many questions in the minds of all of you regarding the Sino-Japanese situation ; and it certainly looks increasingly difficult. The taking over by the so-called "Manchoukuo"—the puppet government set up in Manchuria—of customs and post-offices, has at the same time intensified the international aspects of the situation, and indicated that Japan has no thought of stopping short of entire control of Manchuria. Her spokesmen are reported in newspapers as saying that she will proceed with her plans, regardless of world opinion or the report of the League Inquiry Commission (which has just completed its work here); and meanwhile the process of occupation goes on, with imprisonments, seizure of property and positions, forced evacuations, etc. as its accompaniments—and all in the name of giving independence to the "Manchus" who hardly exist ! How it is to end, or when it will have any settlement, are increasingly puzzling questions—and so much besides Manchuria is at stake ! It is good to know that there are those in Japan who are completely at variance with their government ; one splendid woman, a teacher in one of the government universities, last spring came to China to meet Chinese women, and tell them of her own chagrin and sorrow at what her country had done; a serious illness prevented her coming farther than Shanghai, but her attempts indicate where some of the Christian Japanese stand. When she was

Please return!

asked, "How dare you?" her answer was, "My government does not think women have much influence, so I can do many things a man could not do".

The whole situation is creating a very real dilemma in the thinking of our Christian students; as I heard one of them say in a group this week, "I feel I am two people; I am Chinese, and therefore I feel like fighting the Japanese; but I am also a Christian, and concerned with world peace". I think it is very hopeful that they are recognizing that their Christian loyalty and war are incompatible; therein lies the hope for a Christian international; but it is difficult for them, as for any persons in their position, to take the slower way. They, and all of us, need your prayer, that we may see clearly what the Jesus-way means just here and now, and that we may loyally follow it.

And surely there never was a time, in America or China or in the world at large, when He called us to clearer vision or greater loyalty. Do we really believe that He holds the key to the many problems the world is facing? And if we do, are we ready, regardless of cost, to give ourselves to the finding and following of that way? Upon our answer to those two questions will depend our value as a Christian Church and as individuals in these days of great need and of His clarion call. You and I cannot answer them for the whole Church, but we can see to it that He has the answer He wants from us.

With deep interest in all that is coming to you each one, and with gratitude for all the strengh that comes from your friendship and fellowship in our working together with Him, I am,

Affectionately,

Mona L. Cheney